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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An energetic composite material, comprising:  
~~a plurality of~~ inorganic particles selected from the group consisting of metals, metalloids, metal oxides, and metalloid oxides; and  
self-assembled monolayers being formed on the inorganic particles, the self-assembled monolayers comprising multifunctional linking molecules and optionally non-linking molecules, the multifunctional linking molecules each comprising a respective linking backbone and respective first and second linking functional groups,  
wherein the first and second linking functional groups are chemically bonding-bonded to respective surfaces of a corresponding pair of the inorganic particles so that the multifunctional linking molecules interconnect the inorganic particles to one another to form a network of the inorganic particles interconnected by the multifunctional linking molecules,  
wherein the optional non-linking molecules each comprising comprise a respective non-linking backbone and a respective non-linking functional group, the respective non-linking functional group is chemically bonding-bonded to a corresponding one of the inorganic particles, and  
wherein a member selected from at least one of the multifunctional linking molecules and the optional non-linking molecules comprises a fluorine atom appended to at least one of the linking backbone and the non-linking backbone, respectively, to fluorinate the self-assembled monolayer.

2. (Original) An energetic composite material according to claim 1, wherein the inorganic particles have an average diameter in a range of about 5 nm to about 3 microns.

3. (Original) An energetic composite material according to claim 1, wherein the inorganic particles comprise a metal selected from the group consisting of magnesium, aluminum, boron, titanium, tungsten, and hafnium.

4. (Withdrawn)

5. (Original) An energetic composite material according to claim 1, wherein the inorganic particles comprise oxygen passivated aluminum.

6. (Original) An energetic composite material according to claim 1, wherein the linking backbones each comprise a carbon atom.

7. (Original) An energetic composite material according to claim 1, wherein the linking backbones comprise a member selected from the group consisting of polyethers, hydrocarbons, and fluorocarbons.

8. (Original) An energetic composite material according to claim 1, wherein about 5 weight percent to about 100 weight percent of the self-assembled monolayers consists of the multifunctional linking molecules.

9. (Original) An energetic composite material according to claim 1, wherein the first and second linking functional groups are the same or different, and are selected from the group consisting of carboxylic acid, alcohol, thiol, aldehyde, and amide moieties.

10. (Original) An energetic composite material according to claim 1, wherein the first and second linking functional groups each consists of a respective carboxylic acid terminal moiety.

11. (Original) An energetic composite material according to claim 1, wherein the linking backbone has a plurality of fluorine atoms appended thereto.

12. (Original) An energetic composite material according to claim 1, wherein the linking backbone is perfluorinated.

13. (Withdrawn)

14. (Original) An energetic composite material according to claim 1, wherein the non-linking molecules constitute from about 1 weight percent to about 95 weight percent of the self-assembled monolayers.

15. (Original) An energetic composite material according to claim 14, wherein the non-linking backbone comprises a carbon atom.

16. (Original) An energetic composite material according to claim 15, wherein the non-linking backbone has a plurality of fluorine atoms appended thereto.

17. (Original) An energetic composite material according to claim 15, wherein the non-linking backbone is perfluorinated.

18. (Original) An energetic composite material according to claim 14, wherein the non-linking molecules comprise  $\text{CF}_3(\text{CF}_2)_n\text{COOH}$ , wherein n is in a range of 3 to about 20.

19. (Original) An energetic composite material according to claim 1, wherein a member selected from the group consisting of the multifunctional linking molecules and the non-linking molecules further comprises an energetic group.

20. (Original) An energetic composite material according to claim 19, wherein the energetic group comprises a member selected from the group consisting of a nitro, nitramine, nitrate ester, azide, and difluoro amino moiety.

21. (Original) An energetic composite material according to claim 1, wherein a member selected from the group consisting of the multifunctional linking molecules and the non-linking molecules comprises an ethylenically unsaturated crosslinkable group.

22. (Original) An energetic composite material according to claim 1, wherein  
the energetic composite material is castable, pressable, and/or sinterable.

23-62 (Withdrawn)